



Docket No. 0512-1291  
Appln. No. 10/543,128

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - copy of Preliminary Amendment filed July 22, 2005 and  
USPTO filing receipt card

INT. APPLN. # PCT/FR2004000146 Docket No. 0512-1291

**ATTACH IS A NEW NATIONAL PHASE APPLICATION OF**

INVENTOR(S): Nicolas PEGORIER and Freddy STOOF

TITLE: PIECE OF EQUIPMENT COMPRISING A RIGID SUPPORT FRAME AND A FLEXIBLE LINING AND VEHICLE COMPRISING ONE SUCH PIECE OF EQUIPMENT

FILING DATE: July 22, 2005

CONSISTING OF: ☒ Transmittal Letter (PTO-1390) ☐ SMALL ENTITY DISCOUNT

☒ Published Application (Non-English) ☒ English Language Translation

13 Total pages consisting of 6 Pages of Description, 2 Pages of Claims

4 Sheets Of Drawings and 1 Page(s) Abstract

☒ Application Data Sheet ☐ PCT/IB/308

☒ Preliminary Amendment ☐ Coversheet of Publication

☐ Executed declaration (1) ☐ Exec. Assignment w/PTO-1595

☐ Paper Sequence Listing ☐ Computer readable Seq. List. (diskette)

☐ Not. of Sub. of Sequence Listing ☐ Article 19 Amendments

☐ International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409)

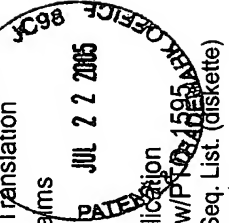
☐ Amended sheets w/IPER

☒ Info. Disclosure Statement w/1449 ☒ International Search Report

☒ 5 Cited References ☒ Check # 32784 for \$1,030.00

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Actual due date: 7/22/2005 USPTO - PLEASE STAMP RECEIPT DATE AND APPLICATION NUMBER BC/yr





PATENT

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Nicholas PEGORIER et al.

Conf.

Application No. **NEW NATIONAL PHASE**

Group

Filed July 22, 2005

Examiner

PIECE OF EQUIPMENT COMPRISING A RIGID SUPPORT FRAME AND A  
FLEXIBLE LINING AND VEHICLE COMPRISING ONE SUCH PIECE OF  
EQUIPMENT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PIECE OF EQUIPMENT COMPRISING A RIGID SUPPORT FRAME AND A  
FLEXIBLE LINING AND VEHICLE COMPRISING ONE SUCH PIECE OF  
EQUIPMENT

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are  
respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified  
application.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this  
paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing  
of claims which begin on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.

An **Appendix** is attached following the signature page of  
this paper.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please cancel the originally-filed Abstract of the Disclosure, and add the accompanying new Abstract of the Disclosure which appears on a separate sheet in the Appendix.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(original) An item of equipment (1) for a motor vehicle, of the type comprising a rigid supporting reinforcement (5) and a flexible padding (7) covering the outer face (9) of the supporting reinforcement, the padding having an outer covering skin (17), wherein the padding has projections (19, 27) that are made in one piece with the outer skin (17) and that rest on the outer face (9) of the supporting reinforcement (5), and wherein the projections (19, 27) delimit between them deforming spaces (21) of the padding to give it its flexibility.

2.(original) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 1, wherein it includes means (31, 33, 35, 37) for attaching the padding (7) onto the supporting reinforcement (5).

3.(original) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 2, wherein the means of attachment comprise snap-on devices (31, 33, 35, 37).

4.(currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein a housing (15) for accommodating a movable device (17) is provided in the supporting reinforcement (5).

5.(original) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 4, wherein a movable device (17) for controlling an accessory of the motor vehicle is accommodated in the housing (15).

6.(original) The item of equipment as claimed in claim 5, wherein at least one projection (27) of the padding (7) rests on the control device (17), and wherein said projection (27) is separated from the projections (19) of the padding (7) that rest on the supporting reinforcement (5) around the housing (15).

7.(currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the projections are ribs (19, 27) and wherein the deforming spaces are cells (21) delimited between the ribs (19, 27).

8.(currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein it includes means (39) for putting the spaces (21) into communication with each other and/or with the outside atmosphere.

9.(currently amended) The item of equipment as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein it constitutes a dashboard of a motor vehicle.

10.(currently amended) A motor vehicle having an item of equipment (1), wherein the item of equipment is an item according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in this application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited. An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



---

Benoit Castel, Reg. No. 35,041  
745 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

BC/yr

**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a new or amended Abstract of the Disclosure
- ☐ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure      of the drawings
- ☐ - a Substitute Specification and a marked-up copy of the originally-filed specification
- ☐ - a terminal disclaimer
- ☐ - a 37 CFR 1.132 Declaration
- ☐ - a verified English translation of foreign priority document



ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A piece of equipment includes a rigid support frame (5) and a flexible lining (7) which covers the outer face (9) of the support frame, the lining includes an outer covering (17). The lining has protrusions (19, 27) which project out from the outer covering (17) and which rest on the outer face (9) of the support frame (5). According to the invention, spaces (21) for the deformation of the lining are defined between the protrusions, thereby making the lining flexible. The invention can be used, for example, to produce instrument panels.